

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 10, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 22, 29, and 31-43 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 11, 21, 29, 42, and 43 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 22, and 29 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 39-43 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 22, 29, and 31-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,460,030 (*Kudtke*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 7, 11, 21, and 29 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims and new independent Claims 42 and 43, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of independent Claims 1, 7, 21, and 29 will be discussed first.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an a network system comprising a server, a client, and a device. The server comprises a first storage unit, to store hierarchical position information defining a position of a device in a plurality of hierarchical layers, and a first transmission unit, which transmits the hierarchical position information to the client via a network. The recited device comprises a second storage unit, to store icon data indicating an icon for the device, and a control unit, adapted to transmit the icon data to the client via the network. The client comprises a first reception unit, adapted to receive the hierarchical position information transmitted by the

first transmission unit via the network, a second transmission unit, that transmits a request to a device corresponding to the hierarchical position information received by the first reception unit so as to acquire the icon data stored in the second storage unit from the device via the network, and a second reception unit, to receive the icon data transmitted by the control unit via the network. The client also comprises a first display unit, to display the position of the device defined by the hierarchical position information received by the first reception unit, and a second display unit, to display the icon indicated by the icon data received by the second reception unit.

Among other notable features of the system of Claim 1 is that the client receives the hierarchical position information from the server, and receives icon data for a device corresponding to the hierarchical position information from the device. It is also very notable that the client displays on the first display unit the position of the device defined by the hierarchical position information received by the first reception unit, and on the second display, the icon indicated by the icon data received by the second reception unit. That is, the first display unit receives the hierarchical position information to display the position of the device, and the second display unit receives the icon data to display the icon.

Ludtke relates to techniques for searching through stored data that may be in any of several devices on an audio visual network. Search criteria are defined at a controller device, and are contained in a command structure transmitted from the controller device to a target device, which recognizes the command as such, and performs the search. In particular, the controller transmits a search request to a proxy device (proxy for the target device), and receives an identifier to access data from the proxy device. The

controller further receives selected data from the target device (column 12, lines 1-47). That is, if any data on the target device match the criteria, those data are identified, and that identifier, together with a location identifier that indicates the location of the matching data, is sent back from the target device to the controller device. The identifier information in the response is sufficient for the controller device to access the matching data. This is illustrated in fuller form in Figs. 3 and 4A - 5D of *Ludtke*. In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 5A - 5D, a controller device 12 receives an identifier to access data from a proxy device 520, which serves as a proxy for the target device. The proxy device 520 analyzes the data content of the target device, and receives and processes the command structure from the controller device to perform the requested search. During this period, the network does not have to (and does not) carry traffic related to this search (col. 12, lines 30 and 31). The proxy device then sends the identifier information resulting from the search to the controller device, which can then use this information to access the actual data in the target device (col. 12, lines 32-40).

Applicants have found nothing in *Ludtke* that would teach or suggest the first and second display units of Claim 1, much less hierarchical position information and icon data.

Applicants strongly point out that the identifier information used in *Ludtke* does not correspond to the recited “hierarchical position information” of Claim 1, and the selected data of *Ludtke* does not correspond to the recited “icon data” of Claim 1.

The hierarchical position information of Claim 1 is information indicating the position of a device (e.g., “second floor” of “AA building” of “Tokyo branch”). In contrast, as described in column 10, lines 1-5, of *Ludtke*, the identifier to access data is the

information by which the controller device can access descriptive data (e.g., “pointer”, “title”, “name”, “memory position”, etc.). In other words, the identifier to access data is not information indicating the position of the device itself. Accordingly, although the hierarchical position information of Claim 1 is used to display the position of the device, the identifier to access data is used to acquire descriptive data but is not used to display the position of the device. Accordingly, Applicants have found nothing in *Ludtke* that would teach or suggest a first display unit displaying the position of the device defined by the hierarchical position information received by the first reception unit, as recited in Claim 1.

In Claim 1, for example, the first display unit displays the position of the device being the information defined by the hierarchical position information (e.g., “AA buildings”, “Tokyo branch”, etc.). However, *Ludtke* does not display any information defined by the identifier to access data. Here, as described above, the information defined by the identifier to access data indicates, e.g., “pointer”, “title”, “name”, “memory position”, etc. (column 10, lines 1-5 of *Ludtke*). *Ludtke* is silent with regards displaying of, for example, a “pointer”, a “title”, a “name”, a “memory position”, etc. Accordingly, even if one assumes that the hierarchical position information corresponds to the identifier to access data, which it does not, *Ludtke* fails to display the position of the device defined by the hierarchical position information received by the first reception unit, as recited in Claim 1.

Further, the icon data of Claim 1 does not correspond to the selected data of *Ludtke*. Specifically, the icon data is data indicating the device, whereas the selected data is data based on the descriptive data of the device. That is, the selected data does not indicate the device itself. Accordingly, Applicants have found nothing in *Ludtke* that

would teach or suggest a second display unit, adapted to display the icon indicated by the icon data received by the second reception unit, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Ludtke*.

Independent Claims 7, 21 and 29 are processor, method, and storage medium claims respectively corresponding to the client of system Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Ludtke* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 42 and 43 include features such as displaying the position of the device defined by the received position information and the icon indicated by the received icon data, similar to those of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 42 and 43 are believed to be patentable over *Ludtke*, for reasons substantially the same as those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The rejection of independent Claim 11 will now be addressed.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 11 is a device for processing a job requested via a network. The device of Claim 11 comprises a first storage unit, adapted to store hierarchical position information indicating a position of the device in a plurality of hierarchical layers, and a second storage unit, adapted to store a plurality of icon data indicating an icon for the device. Also provided are a judgment unit, adapted to judge a status of the device, a selection unit that selects icon data indicating the status judged by the judgment unit from among the plurality of icon data stored in the second storage unit, and a control unit, adapted to transmit the icon data selected by the selection unit via the network.

That is, the device of Claim 11 holds a plurality of icon data respectively corresponding to the plurality of statuses. Accordingly, because the device of Claim 11 transmits the icon data indicating the judged status from among the plurality of icon data, a reception side can display the status of the device in a form easy to be viewed by users.

Among other notable features of Claim 11 is a selection unit that selects icon data indicating the status judged by the judgment unit from among the plurality of icon data stored in the second storage unit.

As discussed above, *Ludtke* relates to a system for searching the stored data of a target device on the audio visual network. In particular, column 12, lines 1-47, of *Ludtke* discusses that a proxy device stores an identifier and descriptive data, and transmits the identifier which satisfies search criteria. *Ludtke* searches the descriptive data which satisfies a search criterion transmitted from the controller device. However, this descriptive data is data which is not concerned with the status of the device (data not indicating the status of the device). Thus, in the case of searching the descriptive data in the *Ludtke* system, it is not necessary to judge the status of the device. Accordingly, Applicants submit that judging the status of the device is not disclosed or suggested in *Ludtke*, because the data such as the identifier and the descriptive data are not essentially relative to the status of the device.

Applicants have found nothing in *Ludtke* that would teach or suggest a selection unit, adapted to select icon data indicating the status judged by the judgment unit from among the plurality of icon data stored in the second storage unit, as recited in Claim 11.

Because *Ludtke* fails to disclose the selection unit of Claim 11, it is not possible for *Ludtke* to realize the significant effect of being able to display on a reception side the status of the device in a form easy to be viewed by users.

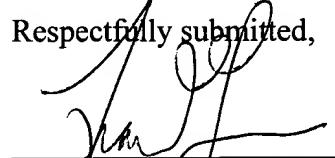
For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is patentable over *Ludtke*.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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